LISTING OF CLAIM

This listing of clams will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-14 (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended): An information supplying apparatus, comprising:

a data updating component configured to replace data stored in an open storage area, which is allowed to be freely accessed via a network, with update data at a specified time;

a data backing-up apparatus component configured to produce a retrieval file name by adding data, which represents a date and time when updating is to be performed, to a file name of said update data, assigning said retrieval file name to the backup data produced from said update data to form a backup retrieval file, and saving said backup retrieval file in a retrieval storage area; and

a retrieving component configured to respond to a client request over the network specifying a date and time to search said retrieval storage area for the backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name exactly corresponding to the date and time of the client request an updating time specified via said network and, if no exact match for the date and time corresponding to the client request is found, to search said retrieval storage area for the backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name with a date and time that are closest to the date and time corresponding to the client request while also being prior thereto, and to retrieve and transfer transferring retrieved backup retrieval file data corresponding to a result of the search

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via said network to a ~~the requesting~~ client ~~which has requested said retrieved backup retrieval file data~~.

16. (Currently amended): The information supplying apparatus~~,~~ according to Claim 15, further comprising an automatic updating component configured to, at a predetermined time of each day <u>corresponding to the specified time</u>, retrieve a backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name ~~having~~ <u>and the</u> added data representing an updating time coincident with the ~~current~~ <u>predetermined</u> time from said retrieval storage area, and ~~writing replacing~~ <u>to replace</u> the data stored in the open storage area by overwriting the data stored in the open storage area with update data having the retrieval file name ~~found~~ <u>retrieved at the predetermined time</u> into said open storage area.

Claims 17-22 (Canceled).

23. (New): An information supplying method, comprising steps of:

replacing data stored in an open storage area, which is allowed to be freely accessed via a network, with update data at a specified time;

backing-up a retrieval file name by adding data, which represents a date and time when updating is to be performed, to a file name of said update data;

assigning said retrieval file name to the backup data produced from said update data to form a backup retrieval file,

saving said backup retrieval file in a retrieval storage area;

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responding to a client request over the network specifying a date and time by searching said retrieval storage area for the backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name exactly corresponding to the date and time of the client request and, if no exact match for the date and time corresponding to the client request is found, by searching said retrieval storage area for the backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name with a date and time that are closest to the date and time corresponding to the client request while also being prior thereto, and

retrieving and transferring backup retrieval file data corresponding to a result of the search via said network to a the requesting client.

24. (New): The information supplying method according to Claim 15, further comprising:

automatically retrieving, at a predetermined time of each day corresponding to the specified time, a backup retrieval file having the retrieval file name and the added data representing an updating time coincident with the predetermined time from said retrieval storage area; and

replacing the data stored in the open storage area by overwriting the data stored in the open storage area with update data having the retrieval file name retrieved at the predetermined time into said open storage area.